scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) since 1979-80. Under the scheme central assistance amounting to Rs.449.60 crores and Rs. 10.27 Scrores under the Central Urban Infrastructure Support Scheme (CUISS) has been released to create urban infrastructure till 30.6.2001.

10. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Liberation of Scavengers was started in 1980-81 with the objective to convert the existing dry latrines into low cost pour flush latrines and to provide alternative employment to the liberated scavengers. So far 835 schemes in 1248 towns have been sanctioned at project cost of Rs. 1422.10 crores.

11. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme was launched in March, 1994 to extend financial support to the State Governments/Local Bodies to provide water supply facilities in towns having population less than 20,000, as per 1991 census. 575 water supply scheme have been sanctioned under the scheme at an estimated cost of Rs.708.56 crores covering a population of 68,20,929.

News Item "Metro Link for Satellites"

914. PROF. SHRIMATI BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Metro link for satellites", appearing in the Hindu, dated the 23rd June, 2001;

(b) whether the entire transport scenario in the entire NCR region is needed to be transformed dramatically, which would decongest the Capital;

(c) if so, Government's plan thereof; and

(d) by when these are likely to bve implemented?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) there is a need for up-gradation and expansion of present

transport network to provide for faster and easier accessibility in National Capital region (NCR) to facilitate decongestion of Delhi.

(c) and (d) The Functional Plan of the NCR Planning Board on Transportation includes various elements such as the development of Mass Rapid Transit System as well as the development of various Expressways in the Region. These plans are in various stages of implementation.

Amendment in Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976

† 915. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what will be the outcome of the amendment;

(c) whether certain State Governments have also submitted their views in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) The Government of India has already repealed the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 through the Urban Land (C&R) Repeal Act, 1999 with effect from 11.1.1999. The Repeal Act is in force in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka & Madhya Pradesh and all the Union Territories (NCT of Delhi, Pondicherry & Chandigarh). The remaining States where the main Act is still in force can adopt the Urban Land (C&R) Repeal Act, 1999 by passing a resolution in their respective Legislature(s) under Article 252 (2) of the Constitution. In view of above, the question of

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.